

Name: _____ Date: _____

Precise Punctuation: Polishing Powerful Prose for Ninth Grade

Identify core mechanics and conventions using contemporary literary snippets and technical writing scenarios to improve syntactic clarity.

1. Which sentence correctly uses an apostrophe to show possession for a plural noun ending in 's'?

- A. The three musician's instruments were left on the stage.
- B. The three musicians' instruments were left on the stage.
- C. The three musiciansss' instruments were left on the stage.
- D. The three musicians's instruments were left on the stage.

2. Choose the correct punctuation to complete the following sentence: 'The space shuttle launched at dawn ___ however, the weather remained unpredictable.'

- A. , (comma)
- B. : (colon)
- C. ; (semicolon)
- D. - (hyphen)

3. True or False: In a list of three or more items, the comma following the penultimate item (the Oxford Comma) is grammatically required by all style guides.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of the following sentences uses quotation marks correctly for a title of a short work?

- A. I just finished reading the famous short story 'The Lottery' by Shirley Jackson.
- B. I just finished reading the famous short story "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson.
- C. I just finished reading the famous short story (The Lottery) by Shirley Jackson.
- D. I just finished reading the famous short story *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson.

5. Complete this sentence with the right punctuation: 'The chef needed four ingredients ___ sea salt, rosemary, garlic, and olive oil.'

- A. ; (semicolon)
- B. , (comma)
- C. : (colon)
- D. . (period)

6. True or False: A period should always be placed inside the closing quotation mark at the end of a sentence in American English.

- A. True
- B. False

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7. Identify the sentence that correctly uses a comma to set off an introductory phrase.

- A. Under the old oak tree the dog buried its bone.
- B. Under the old oak tree, the dog buried its bone.
- C. Under, the old oak tree the dog buried its bone.
- D. Under the old oak, tree the dog buried its bone.

8. Which option fixes the contraction in this sentence? '___ going to be a long flight to Tokyo.'

- A. Its
- B. Its'
- C. It's
- D. Is

9. Which sentence correctly punctuates a direct quote that is split by an attribution?

- A. "The game is over," the coach said, "it is time to go home."
- B. "The game is over" the coach said "it is time to go home."
- C. "The game is over," the coach said, "It is time to go home."
- D. "The game is over", the coach said, "it is time to go home."

10. True or False: The following sentence is correctly punctuated: 'I love to study chemistry, it is my favorite subject.'

- A. True
- B. False